

Application No.: 09/436,637

Docket No.: 21776-00044-US

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 16-63 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to support claim 63. Claim 63 has been cancelled, and the objection to the specification is therefore moot.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections of claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. The cancellation of claim 63 renders the rejections moot.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Hashimoto et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,918,976). The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 63.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Rodgers et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,664,528). The cancellation of claim 63 renders the rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants graciously acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-15.

Priority Documents

Applicants affirm that certified copies of the priority documents will be provided prior to payment of the issue fee.

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In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21776-00044-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated:

January 29, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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